(b) if so, what is the number of rape/molestation cases registered in 2005-06 as against 15,000 cases of rape and 32,000 cases of molestation reportedly registered in 2003;

(c) what steps Government propose to take to put rape trial cases on fast track as was done recently in Alwar rape case; and

(d) whether his Ministry plans to write to all High Courts requesting to set up fast track courts as done in Rajasthan recently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) No. Sir.

(b) As per statistics complied by NCRB, the number of cases of rape and molestation reported in the country during 2005 (provisional) were 17,363 and 33,169 respectively as against 15,847 cases of rape and 32,939 cases of molestation reported in 2003.

(c) and (d) Government has already initiated action for setting up Fast Track Courts (FTCs) and 1562 FTCs are in operation in various States in the country. The Government has already requested the State Governments to initiate Plan of Action in consultation with the respective High Courts to designate atleast one FTC in each district to deal exclusively with cases of offences against women including sexual abuse and rape.

Meeting of CMs on Naxal problems

3408. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in his address on 13th April, 2006 at the meeting of Chief Ministers of the Naxalites affected States, Naxalism has been identified to be the single biggest internal security challenge ever faced by the country;

(b) if so, broad justification of the observation so made;

(c) the measures being evolved, if any, to face this challenge comprehensively instead of continuing to treat it as a law and order problem of the respective States; and

(d) the salient details of the monitoring mechanism, if any, established at the Centre to deal with situations evolving due to activities of left-extremist outfits in various States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) In view of the naxal movement now characterized by growing militrarisation, army style organization, better trained cadres, attacks on large targets through large scale frontal assaults and better coordination, the Prime Minister, while addressing the 2nd meeting of the Standing Committee of Chief Ministers of naxal affected States on 13.4.2006, *inter alia*, observed that naxalism is the single biggest internal security challenge ever faced by the country.

(c) The Government does not consider naxalism to be merely a law & order problem. The policy of the Govt. is, therefore, to address this problem simultaneously on political, security, development and public perception management fronts in a holistic and coordinated manner.

(d) Monitoring mechanisms set up by the Central Govt. include Standing Committee of the Chief Ministers of the naxal affected States chaired by the Union Home Minister, Quarterly Coordination Centre meetings chaired by the Union Home Secretary with the Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police of the affected States and the monthly Task Force meetings of Nodal Officers of the naxal affected States and Central agencies chaired by Special Secretary (IS), MHA.

Rehabilitation for surrendered militants

3409. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government are taking for the post-surrender rehabilitation of former militants to bring them to social mainstream;

(b) since law and order is State subject and causes of terrorism in every State are unique in their distinct characteristics, what kind of role of the Central Government play in rehabilitation of these surrendered terrorists;